

[install]

RHINOS RULE



Mini 4x4s Are All the Rage

by Trent Riddle photography by Trent Riddle and Courtesy of the Manufacturers

The Yamaha Rhino is thought by many to be a farm implement or 4WD golf cart. The truth is, the Rhino is these things and much more. A fast growing contingent of loyal Rhino owners have discovered the fun and freedom of blasting the dunes, crawling down rocky trails, and exploring the road less traveled in their Rhinos.

Of course, when any vehicle gets popular, the aftermarket accessory manufacturers take note and begin building accessories to improve that vehicle's performance, off-road capabilities, durability, and of course looks. Here we install a few of these great products to show you a few of the offerings to upgrade your Rhino for better performance and looks.

Fabtech Performance Suspensions offers Rhino owners a long travel suspension system that widens the track 12 inches, 6 per side, increases wheelbase by 4-inches and adds 3-inches in overall height. The longer suspension arms are made from 1.25 OD .120 wall 4130 Chromo tubing with dimple die gusset plates for added strength. The front upper arms feature 3/4-inch Teflon lined heim joints at the ends, while the lower arms have 7/8-inch uniballs. This allows the new suspension an unrestricted 13-inches of usable wheel

travel. The steering is upgraded with tie-rod extensions that feature 1/2-inch heim ends for durability.

Also included are replacement 4340 heat-treated axle shafts. These can be upgraded to complete heavy duty CV axle assemblies to further increase durability.

This suspension can be installed with Fabtech's stock replacement shocks or upgraded to their DIRT LOGIC 2.0 Coilovers. These directly replace the front and rear shocks and feature a remote reservoir design. Fabtech claims that "extensive ride R&D work has resulted in a supple ride at low speeds for cruising around camp" and "superior dampening capacity at high speeds for those aggressive trail rides."

They also offer a rear differential support kit and a control arm gusset set for the factory frame mounts. Both of these strengthen critical areas under the Rhino to toughen it for the rigors of aggressive driving.

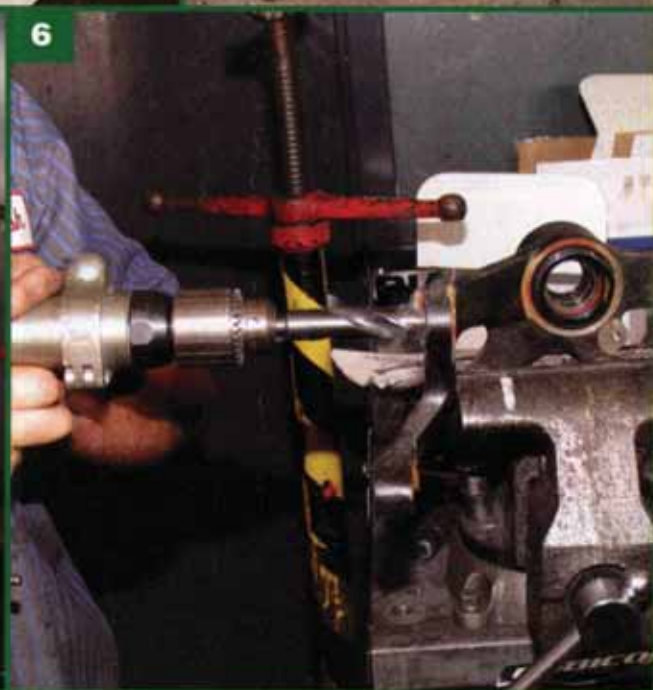
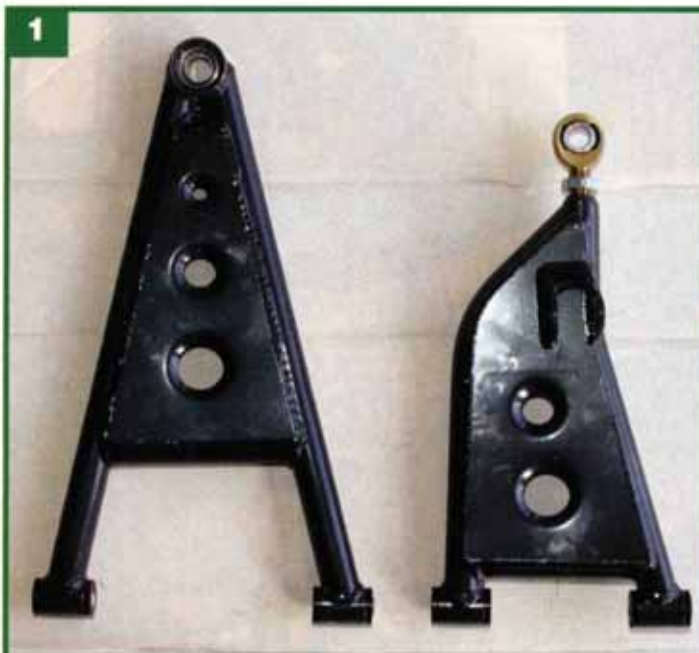
If one plans to spend a lot of time enjoying their Rhino, a seat upgrade is a must. The industrial quality OE seats are great around the farm, but a little harsh for long use on the trail. Mastercraft offers some very comfortable seats that are a bolt in

replacement using the factory seat mounts and belts.

Mastercraft offers upgraded seats for the front of the Rhino in either low back or high back versions. The high back seats (seen here) are great for use with aftermarket cages that remove the stock rear X-beam behind the seat. If the X-beam is retained, the low back seats with optional matching covers for the factory headrest, is the seat option of choice. They also offer a rear seat and 5-point seat belt harnesses.

Speed Industries offers a rear cage extension as well as a rear cross bar option to allow for the installation of 4 or 5-point harnesses. The rear cage extension comes with a rear bumper and they offer a matching front bumper that rounds out the look and comes with a front skid plate. Other options are exhaust tips and muffler end covers, billet aluminum steering wheels and shifter. They also offer a half-door for the Rhino that is not seen here.

Our Rhino installation was handled by Josh Reiter, at the Redondo Beach, CA location. Follow along as we show you a few of the installation steps from this buildup. All products featured are available at 4 Wheel Parts Performance Centers; or mail order 800-284-9840; or on line at www.4wheelparts.com.



Our Rhino installation was handled by Josh Reiter, at the Redondo Beach, CA location.

1. The Fabtech travel suspension system features longer arms made from 1.25 OD .120 wall 4130 Chromo tubing with dimple die gusset plates for added strength. The front upper arms feature 3/4" Teflon lined heim joints at the ends, while the lower arms employ 7/8-inch uniballs.

2. Fabtech DIRT LOGIC 2.0 Coilovers directly replace the front and rear shocks on Rhino's and feature a remote reservoir design.

3. The new front suspension offers an unrestricted 13-inches of usable wheel travel. The steering has tie-rod extensions that feature 1/2" heim ends for durability.

4. The rear suspension's components are just as stout as those used up front.

5. Reiter installs the new replacement 4340 heat-treated axle shafts in the stock CV ends. Another option would be to upgrade to Fabtech's replacement heavy-duty CV axle assemblies to further increase durability.

6. The Fabtech suspension system requires the steering knuckles be drilled out. This means no returning the Rhino to stock without new knuckles.

RHINOS RULE

SOURCES:

4Wheel Parts Performance Center
2500 Marine Ave., Unit B
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
310-973-6115
Installation

Fabtech Performance Suspensions
Long arm kit with coilover and shock remotes

JOES Racing Products
Mirrors

MasterCraft Race Products
Front Seats, Dual Rear Seat
5-point seat belt harnesses

Maxxis International
Tires

OMF Performance Products
Wheels

Speed Industries
Rear cage extension



7. Fabtech offers a control arm gusset set for the factory frame mounts to strengthen critical areas under your Rhino. This will toughen it for the rigors of aggressive driving.

8. The stock steering tie rods are lengthened to match the wider arms of the Fabtech kit. In addition, the tie-rod end is upgraded to a heim-joint.

9. Fabtech also offers a rear differential support kit to help prevent cracking of the differential case when pushing your Rhino to its limits on the trail.

10. The rear cage extension is best assembled on the ground, leaving all the bolts loose and then installed on the Rhino before tightening all the bolts.



11a&b. These are Mastercraft's high back design seats suitable for use on cages that remove the stock cage rear X-bar. They also offer a rear bench seat that requires a mount and some seat belt mounting. Note: For safety, the bed must be locked in place with rear seats installed and the seating area is not for large people.

12. Bedlock wheels are another option available.

13. The upgraded Rhino is looking good and a great performer in the dirt. ▲